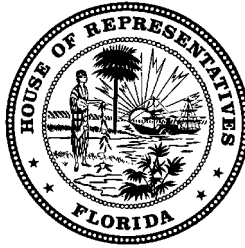


HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE PROCEDURAL COUNCIL
Representative Tom Feeney, Council Chair

2000 SUMMARY OF PASSED LEGISLATION



REAPPORTIONMENT COMMITTEE
Representative Rudy Garcia, Chair
Representative J. Dudley Goodlette, Vice Chair

RULES & CALENDAR COMMITTEE
Representative Joe Arnall, Chair
Representative Greg Gay, Vice Chair

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Rules & Calendar Committee

CS/CS HB 181, 1st ENG. -- Ethics/Financial Disclosure

By Governmental Operations; Rules & Calendar; Arnall; Feeney

Linked Bill(s): None

Related Bill(s): None

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules & Calendar and Governmental Operations

CS/CS/HB 181 substantially amends the Florida Code of Ethics, particularly in the area of full and limited financial disclosure. Specifically, the bill requires former officers and employees to file final disclosure of financial interests no later than 60 days following departure, with certain exceptions. The bill implements an automatic fine system for those filing late (after September 1) or failing to file altogether, for both limited and full financial disclosures: \$25 per day, up to a maximum penalty of \$1,500. The bill redefines the terms “local officer” and “state officer” to include certain individuals who have been elected to, but who have not officially assumed the responsibilities of the office. The bill adopts a new approach toward reducing limited disclosure filings by members of relatively minor boards and commissions by defining the specific type of board member who must file. The bill also amends the reporting dates for filing quarterly disclosure of paid representations before agencies from 15 days after the last day of the quarter to the last day of the following quarter.

The bill redefines the term “reporting individual” with respect to the reporting and prohibited receipt of gifts to include a candidate or individual who has been elected to, but yet to assume the responsibilities of public office. The bill also changes the valuation laws to establish a 90-day period during which a reporting individual may reimburse a donor for all or a part of a gift’s value. CS/CS/HB 181 resolves an ambiguity regarding judges and the annual reporting of gifts to require the Chief Judge and judges of compensation claims to follow the gift prohibitions in Canon 5D(5)(h) of the Code of Judicial Conduct, rather than the Code of Ethics.

The bill enables the Florida Commission on Ethics, when a witness refuses to talk because of possible self-incrimination, to consult with the appropriate state attorney and then apply to the chief judge of the circuit for a judicial grant of immunity. The bill also requires that no more than five members of the Ethics Commission be from the same political party at any one time. The Ethics Commission is directed to develop a plan to implement a course of study regarding the requirements of the Sunshine Amendment and Code of Ethics for Public Officers and Employees, the public records law and the public

meetings law, for each elected and appointed public officer. Finally, the bill transfers the administration of the financial disclosure filing system and the gift and honoraria disclosure filing systems from the Secretary of State to the Ethics Commission.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is January 1, 2001.

SB 718, 1st ENG. -- Lobbying

By Senator McKay

Linked Bill(s): SB 720

Related Bill(s): None

Committee(s) of Reference: Rules & Calendar

The bill revises and conforms the reporting and registration requirements for lobbyist of the Legislature, Executive Branch of Government and the Constitution Revision Commission. It reduces lobbyist reporting requirements to twice a year and caps fines assessed for late filings of such reports at \$5,000.

Designates the first lobbyist to register for a principal as the designated lobbyist for that principal.

Additionally, it provides that a legislative lobbyist could request, under oath, relief from filing an expenditure report for good cause shown, based on unusual circumstances. The relief would be granted by the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives after a recommendation is made by the General Counsel of the Office of Legislative Affairs.

Subject to the Governor's veto powers, the effective date of this bill is Upon Becoming Law.